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Nicole Neily

President at Speech First

Arlington, Virginia

Connect ···

Speech First

Pepperdine School of Public Policy

See contact info

500+ connections

I'm a think tank executive specializing in coalition building, management, public relations, and fundraising - skills I developed over the past 12 years in both the nonprofit/advocacy sphere and private sector crisis communications.

I'm a proven spokesperson and experienced political commentator on TV and radio, and have appeared on networks including FOX News, Fox Business, CNN, PBS, and MSNBC. My work has been featured in publications including Forbes, The Hill, the Washington Times, Real Clear Policy, the Chicago Tribune, and the Orange County Register.

I received a Masters of Public Policy from Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy, with a focus on economic policy and foreign policy. I also earned my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign - go Illini!

Strengths: communications strategy, crisis communications, crisis management, coalition building,

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Owner/President at JayCat Trading Company / Marketing at Arty's Legendary Cocktails

Patrick Merkel
Director Of Education at Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)

Brian Dempsey
Public Service Executive at State of Kansas

Robyn Bagley

conservative outreach, public affairs, litigation communication, issue advocacy, public policy, on-air commentary, opinion writing, media relations, event planning

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Highlights

Reach out to Nicole for...
Joining a nonprofit.

Message Nicole

Experience

President
Speech First
Dec 2017 – Present · 1 yr 4 mos
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Speech First is a membership association of students, parents, faculty, alumni, and concerned citizens from across the country who want to support students' free speech rights on campus. Free speech isn't a partisan issue - it benefits everyone across the political spectrum. There's strength in numbers, and we'd like to send a message to students that if they choose to stand up for their rights, they won't do so alone.

Senior Fellow
Independent Women's Forum
Feb 2016 – Nov 2018 · 2 yrs 10 mos
Washington D.C. Metro Area

President
Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity
Mar 2016 – Apr 2017 · 1 yr 2 mos
Austin, Texas Area

Restructured a seven year old nonprofit with an annual budget of $2.6 million in FY 2016, stabilizing operations and creating the conditions needed for a smooth transition to new ownership.
Increased fundraising from foundations, corporations, and individuals, increasing major gifts

Education Entrepreneur and Independent Consultant

Paul Wolfowitz
Chairman of the US-Taiwan Business Council at Business Council

Jim Kallenberger
IT BMO Manager at Seaboard Foods

Sally Fox
Insurance Regulator, Consumer Assistance Division--Annuities, Life, and Health

George Johnston
Unit Commissioner Trails West District at HOAC, BSA

Learn the skills Nicole has

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Viewers: 2,446

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Viewers: 2,740

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($5,000+) by 26% and attracting the support of 6 new foundations – despite election years being traditionally lean for 501(c)3 organizations.
Managed a nationwide staff of 26 reporters, editors, fundraisers, & communications professionals.
See less

Dezenhall Resources, Ltd
3 yrs 8 mos

Senior Vice President
Jan 2014 – Feb 2016 · 2 yrs 2 mos
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Designed and executed issue advocacy campaigns, establishing disparate coalitions of think tanks, advocacy organizations, and subject matter experts; hosted salon events; media outreach.
Provided strategic counsel to multinational corporations, trade associations, and high-profile individuals to address both acute crises and longer-term marketplace assaults.
Developed communications strategies for clients facing regulatory, legislative, and legal challenges in the food & beverage, consumer products, energy, financial services, and health sectors.
Managed multiple client budgets simultaneously, with labor and budget totals of over $2 million/year. See less

Vice President
Jul 2012 – Jan 2014 · 1 yr 7 mos
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Independent Women's Forum
2 yrs 6 mos

Executive Director
Apr 2011 – Jan 2012 · 10 mos
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Modernized a 20-year old organization facing a budget deficit, rebuilding relationships with donors and media outlets in the wake of a high-profile leadership departure.
Overhauled fundraising department, re-launching a direct mail program and initiating a prospecting program to reach new audiences – raising $300,000 from foundation, corporate and individual donors, and increasing corporate donations by 1000 percent.
Reorganized marketing and communications to address social media and the 24-hour news cycle.
See less

Senior Fellow
Aug 2009 – Mar 2011 · 1 yr 8 mos
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Director of Research Analysis

The Winston Group

Feb 2010 – Feb 2011 · 1 yr 1 mo

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Studied federal policy and developed communications plans for clients including political campaigns and Fortune 500 corporations.
Prepared polls and hosted focus groups for a health insurance provider and a major energy company.

Cato Institute

3 yrs 1 mo

Manager of External Relations

Apr 2007 – Aug 2009 · 2 yrs 5 mos

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Created the Institute's external relations department to develop and cultivate relationships with organizations across the political spectrum in DC, the states, and internationally.

Media Manager

Aug 2006 – Apr 2007 · 9 mos

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Promoted the Institute's work on defense, foreign policy, trade, and economic development through press releases, pitch notes, and daily news dispatches.

Show fewer experiences

Education

Pepperdine School of Public Policy

Master's Degree, Economic Policy & Foreign Policy

2004 – 2006

Activities and Societies: Women in Public Policy

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor's Degree, Political Science

1998 – 2002

Activities and Societies: Alpha Chi Omega; Student Government; Vice President of Risk Management, Panhellenic Council

Licenses & Certifications

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Volunteer Experience

Alumni Council Board Member

American Swiss Foundation

May 2014 – Dec 2017 • 3 yrs 8 mos

Politics

The American Swiss Foundation is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1945 to preserve and strengthen the historic friendship between the United States and Switzerland. The main program of the American Swiss Foundation is the Young Leaders Conference, held annually in Switzerland since 1990. Alumni of the Conference now number more than 1,000 leaders in both countries. The Foundation hosts monthly Young Leaders Reunions and public discussion events in both countries to bring together American and Swiss opinion leaders for person-to-person exchange on current topics.

Board Member

Young Voices

Jun 2016 – Dec 2017 • 1 yr 7 mos

Politics

Young Voices cultivates the next generation of independent thought leaders in policy, journalism, and academia. We do so by providing rigorous writing training, editing, and media placement services for students and young professionals around the world free of charge.

Alumni for Liberty Board Member

Students For Liberty

Feb 2014 – Oct 2015 • 1 yr 9 mos

Politics

Students For Liberty is the largest libertarian student organization in the world, with over 800 student leaders supporting over 1,350 student groups representing over 100,000 students on all inhabited continents. As the student movement for liberty continues to grow around the world it becomes increasingly important for alumni to stay connected to the students and each other. Alumni For Liberty provides a means for alumni of the student movement to do just that while

giving back and empowering the next generation of leaders of liberty. Just as Students For Liberty's mission is to empower students, AFL empowers our members to advance in their careers and change the world.

Leadership Board

Young Conservatives for the Freedom to Marry

Apr 2012 – Dec 2015 • 3 yrs 9 mos

Civil Rights and Social Action

Young Conservatives for the Freedom to Marry are men and women who are voicing their support for the freedom to marry because they believe in the basic conservative values of responsibility, community, limited government, family values, the Golden Rule and individual freedom.

Show fewer experiences

Skills & Endorsements

Strategic Communications · 26

Endorsed by **Mindy Finn and 3 others who are highly skilled at this**

Endorsed by **2 of Nicole's colleagues at Dezenhall Resources, Ltd**

Public Policy · 19

Endorsed by **Joe Bishop-Henchman and 3 others who are highly skilled at this**

Endorsed by **2 of Nicole's colleagues at Dezenhall Resources, Ltd**

Media Relations · 12

Endorsed by **Tor Constantino, MBA and 3 others who are highly skilled at this**

Endorsed by **6 of Nicole's colleagues at Cato Institute**

Show more

Recommendations

Received (0) Given (1)

Eric Kohn
Marketing Manager at Illinois Policy Institute
September 23, 2018, Nicole was a client of Eric's

Working with Eric was a pleasure - he gave thoughtful recommendations, was always immediately responsive, and executed our marketing plans efficiently and flawlessly!

Accomplishments

1 **Honor & Award**
Member of the Council on Women

1 **Project**
Illinois Policy Institute

Interests

State Policy Network
531 followers

Forbes
9,357,174 followers

Independent Women's Forum
1,234 followers

The Federalist Society
4,139 followers

Adweek
1,052,698 followers

The Economist
7,484,871 followers

See all

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